

Amendments to the Specification

1. Please delete the sentence on page 2, lines 15 – 24, and replace with the following sentence:

Parameters for evaluating the optical characteristics of an optical material for a lens (or the like) include (1) internal transmissivity, (2) laser durability, which represents changes in transmissivity where laser light is continuously received, (3) refractive index uniformity (homogeneity), which represents that the refractive index of a lens is constant with location, (4) birefringence index, (5) processing (or polishing) precision, and the like.

2. Please replace the words “defect of” on page 3 line 17 of the specification with the words “defects of a.”
3. Please delete the word “of” in line 23 of page 3.
4. Please delete the phrase “Thus, crystal defect is very few, and it can provide an” on page 5, lines 22-23 and replace with the phrase “Thus, there are relatively few crystal defects, and the invention provides an”.
5. Please replace “AnF₂” at line 20, page 12 with “ZnF₂”.
6. Please delete the sentence on page 13, lines 4-5 that reads “The more the moisture is, the more the required scavenger is” and replace with the following sentence “The more moisture there is, the more scavenger is required.”

7. Please replace the phrase "several ten hours" on page 20, line 1, with the phrase "several tens of hours."
8. Please insert the word "more" between the words "much" and "expensive" at line 13, page 21.
9. Please delete the sentence on page 27, lines 21-26 and replace with the following sentence:

To determine the transition density, a (1,1,1) plane corresponding to a cleavage plane of a CaF₂ crystal was immersed in 0.4N nitric acid solution, and the resulting etch pit density was taken as the transition density of the evaluated crystal.

10. Please replace the word "Toxic" at line 13, page 28, with the phrase "The toxic".
11. Please insert the word "an" before the words "excimer laser" at line 24, page 31.
12. Please replace the phrase "YAG laser" at line 24, page 31 with the phrase "YAG lasers."